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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/081,061 | MIYAZAKI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Andrew L. Nalven | 2134 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment submitted 10/12/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-35.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Art Unit: 2134

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Yee (Reg# 37,478) on December 18, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 20. A computer system having an input/output processing unit for executing a file access, an access execution unit for requesting a file access via the input/output processing unit in response to a user instruction, and an access control unit for performing access control when the file access is executed, wherein the access control unit comprises:

a storage unit protected from the access execution unit;

a file list stored in the storage unit describing security levels of files;

a user list stored in the storage unit describing clearances of users;

an access control processing unit for determining whether the file access is legal in accordance with the file list, the user list, an access type of the file access, information identifying a file, and information identifying a user, wherein if a host OS program of the access control processing unit is tampered with, a guest OS of the

Art Unit: 2134

access control processing unit is instructed to invalidate one or more functions of the host OS program;

an enciphering unit for encrypting a file when storing the file on a storage medium;

a deciphering unit for decrypting the encrypted file when retrieving the encrypted file from the storage medium; wherein the storage unit stores at least one cipher key commonly used among a plurality of security levels for each file, the cipher key used for both encrypting and decrypting; and

an access monitor unit which:

when the input/output processing unit executes a file access, sends the access type, the information identifying the file, and the information identifying the user to the access control processing unit;

receives a validity determination result of the file access from the access control processing unit; and

if the file access is legal, causes the input/output processing unit to execute the file access, and if the file access is illegal, inhibits the file access.

1. Claims 20-35 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art, Boebert et al US Patent No. 4,713,753, McCollum et al US Patent No. 6,006,228 and Matyas Jr. et al US Patent No. 6,947,556 disclose methods of controlling access to files including encryption; however, the cited prior art fails to specifically teach

Art Unit: 2134

or suggest an access control unit wherein if a host OS program of the access control processing unit is tampered with, a guest OS of the access control processing unit is instructed to invalidate one or more functions of the host OS program where the host OS program and guest OS program (see Applicant's remarks Page 6). As a result, the cited prior art fails to anticipate or render obvious the above cited claims.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

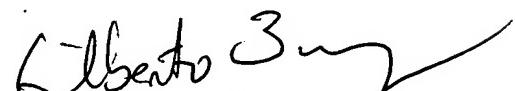
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Nalven whose telephone number is 571 272 3839. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8-6, Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571 272 3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2134

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrew Nalven



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